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GLENN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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September 1, 1999

Cal-Fed Bay Delta
Attn: Mr. Snow
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program

Dear Mr. Snow:

The Glenn County Farm Bureau represents over 980 farm families and has taken a great deal of concern regarding the Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program. People throughout California benefit from the state's highly productive farmland, whether they work on the land, live in rural communities or shop at a grocery store in the city. Program administrators need to realize actions taken in our rural areas will affect and hurt our cities. People in the cities need the affordable, high-quality food produced on California farms.

Cal-Fed has presented its proposed solution to water-supply and environmental problems in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay, this solution is suppose to restore balance to the California water policy. This solution is not feasible.

Cal-Fed is relying on taking water away from people, through transfers, conservation and idling of productive farmland. Instead of having a program that subtracts from one group to provide to another, Cal-Fed should and needs to focus on adequate water storage.

Farms and ranches in California provide important environmental, open-space and habitat benefits. Farmers already participate in numerous voluntary habitat-enhancement programs. Yet the heart of Cal-Fed's programs promotes permanently retiring hundred of thousands of acres of productive farmland, which would decimate farm communities.

Farming in many families, is tradition the Cal-Fed program will jeopardize the "American Family Farming Tradition" here in California. When farmers are forced out and can no longer provide food, how will other California families provide for their families?

Cal-Fed must return to its original focus of conducting habitat-restoration work on public lands or existing habitat. Cal-Fed should use incentives, not threats, to encourage farmers and other landowners to create voluntary restoration and conservation projects.

The Glenn County Farm Bureau appreciates your time and asks Cal-Fed to pursue this program in a more positive direction for all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Dan Kennedy

Dan Kennedy
Glenn County Farm Bureau President